

Appl. Ser. No. 10/657,800
Reply Filed: September 11, 2008
Reply to the Office Action of July 28, 2008

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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of July 28, 2008, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 are withdrawn from consideration, claims 16-21, of which claims 16, 18, 20-21 are independent, were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious in view of Yagasaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,672). Yagasaki has a U.S. filing date of September 1993 and an earliest foreign priority date of September 1992. This application claims priority, ultimately, to U.S. Patent Application 07/908,192, filed July 1, 1992. Accordingly, Yagasaki is not prior art to this application.

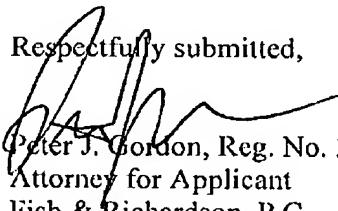
Accordingly, all of the rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0876.

Respectfully submitted,


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